

## **Market Avenue, N.W.**

Market Avenue, N.W., was rerouted and renamed Monroe Avenue, N.W., in 1978 when the former Monroe Avenue running southeast from Campau Square became Monroe Center, N.W., otherwise known as the Monroe Mall. Along the east side of this new roadway north of Louis Street, the Monroe Amphitheater was built in 1979. It was later replaced with the urban sculpture by Maya Lin named "Rosa Parks Circle" by the City Commission in 2001.

1            04/27/83    7198            Riverside  
Gas station.

1-9           05/09/61    330            Viking Construction Co., Inc.  
Will reuse sewer main.

6            12/06/88    7836

11

12           02/23/89    7881  
Partial, rear of building only.

15

20 Market (Monroe) N.W. The B.O.B. (Big Old Building) began its life in 1903 as the William Judson Wholesale Grocery warehouse and distribution center. Later it became the Interstate Warehouse. Gregory Gilmore and his partnership purchased the building in 1979, sold it about 1986, then re-purchased it about 1992. The 5-story, 70,000-square-foot brick building underwent a \$7.3 million renovation in 1996, and reopened in the fall of that year as a restaurant and entertainment center operated by Gilmore Partnerships, with John F. Gilmore and Gregory S. Gilmore at the helm. Grand Rapids *Press* sports editor Bob Becker wrote a tongue-in-cheek column suggesting the new arena should be named after him, and the Gilmores adopted his suggestion for their enterprise. There are three floors of drinks, food, music, and games; one level for banquet and meeting rooms; and the top floor for offices of the Gilmore Partnership and Castlerock, Inc. The B.O.B. formally opened on February 10, 1997.

25           04/07/88    7751

25-27

30-32        *Removed before 1953.*

31 04/02/86 7429 Pitsch  
Vinkemulder Building. 2 cutoffs.

39-49 04/03/84 7278 Pitsch  
*Berkey Furniture Co. stood here, replaced by a Skaff parking ramp.*

39-57 *Auto parking facility.*

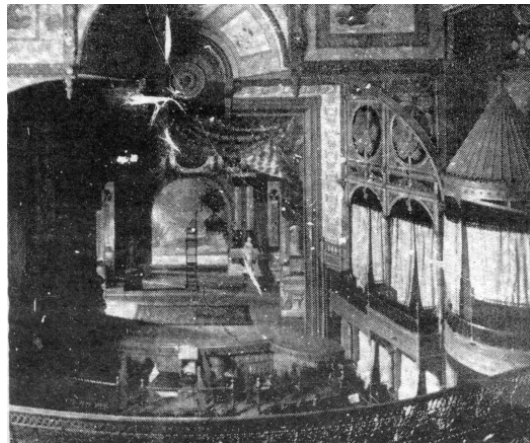
50 Monroe N.W. The building known as 50 Monroe Place was assembled in 1986 from three different buildings between the old Market Avenue and Ottawa Avenue. It has 165,000 leasable square feet, and its major tenants in 1993 were the WBDC Architects Group; A.G. Edwards & Sons; and the Kent County Friend of the Court.

52 07/18/85 7403 Pitsch  
No cutoff.

54-68 Market N.W. Fireproof underground structure for auto parking. Parking above and below ground. Built 1956. Capacity 270 cars. Replaced Mel Trotter Mission.

55-65 05/31/78 5536 City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch

**60-62 Market N.W.** Smith's Opera House, on the southeast corner of Market and Louis, opened September 7, 1885, and closed in 1906. By 1912, the building was



occupied as the City Rescue Mission, which remained at this location for many years. (Photos: Gordon Harrington collection, printed in the *Interpreter*, March 20, 1975, p. 13.)

61-63-65-67 *Auto parking facility.*

74-76 Market N.W. Part of Wurzburg's. 7-story non-combustible. Built 1950. 106' high. Also addressed as 125 Louis N.W. Replaced earlier building on this site.

77            05/31/78    5535            City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch

80            06/06/80    5909            Economic Development--Boerema  
Savoy Theater.

84            06/06/80    5910            Economic Development--Boerema

88 Market N.W. Mutual Home Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Built 1929. 2 stories. 24' high. Demolished for new Art Museum.

88            03/23/2004 9298            Pitsch

89-95        *Widdicomb Building.*